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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,028	03/19/2004	Gerald M. Simon	2020504	6926
22824	7590	02/02/2005	EXAMINER	
DONALD R. SCHOONOVER 4211 ROLLING HILLS DRIVE NIXA, MO 65714-8771				BASINGER, SHERMAN D
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3617				

DATE MAILED: 02/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	SIMON, GERALD M.	
Examiner	Art Unit	

Sherman D. Basinger
3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,7 and 10 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2-6,8 and 9 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/19/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 10 is incomplete. Below is a copy of claim 10 as filed by applicant:

10. The stabilizer as described in claim 7 wherein each strap of the first and second stabilizer units includes:

(a) a first orifice for receiving the distal end of the respective body therethrough, the first orifice being spaced such that the fastening means of the strap is located above the respective float as the strap secures the at least one adjustable float portion vertically above the main float portion;

and

(b) a second orifice for receiving the distal end of the respective body therethrough, the second orifice being spaced such that the fastening means of the strap is located above the respective float as the strap secures the at least one adjustable

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howe et al in view of Dornier and Sullivan.

In Howe et al the small boat is the canoe, the body is b, the float is i and the connecting joint is c.

Howe et al does not disclose at least one adjustable float portion. Note the adjustable float portion 21 with the strap fastening means 23 structured to secure the at least one adjustable float portion vertically relative to the float portion 15.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to provide to the float i of Howe et al an adjustable float portion similar to that of Dornier. Motivation to do so is found in lines 1-5 of page 1 of Dornier.

Howe et al does not disclose the lock unit on the body between the proximal and distal ends which releasably engages the top rail of a respective side of the boat. Note the lock units 15 and 16 of Sullivan. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains to provide lock units similar to 15 and 16 of Sullivan to the bodies b of Howe et

al to lock the bodies to the top rails of the sides of the boat. Motivation to do so is to better lock the stabilizers of Howe et al to the boat. Providing lock units similar to those of Sullivan to the stabilizers of Howe et al to work in conjunction with springs c would mean that the bodies b would be attached to the boat more securely.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2-6, 8 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

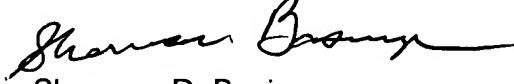
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. McDougall is cited to show the spar 14 and the floats 18. Birkett is cited to show the bodies 26 and the floats 28. Grzybowski 210 and 306 are cited to show the bodies, the floats, the connecting joints and the lock units.

7. It appears that page 28 of the application was not received. The application pages skip from page 27 to page 29.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sherman D. Basinger whose telephone number is 703-308-1139. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (6:00-2:30 ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sherman D. Basinger
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617


Friday, January 28, 2005